

Message Text

SECRET

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S E C R E T MOSCOW 21383

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SALT

E.O. 11652: XGDS
TAGS: PARM
SUBJECT: SALT MEETING WITH GROMYKO, SEPTEMBER 7, 1978

1. IN INITIAL MEETING, WARNKE REVIEWED US POSITION AS EMBODIED IN INSTRUCTIONS AND ALSO PROPOSED BAN ON DEPRESSED TRAJECTORY TESTING OF SLBM'S.
2. GROMYKO GAVE NO GENERAL RESPONSE, LIMITING HIMSELF TO FOLLOWING SPECIFIC ISSUES:
 - A. IN RESPONSE TO GROMYKO'S APPARENT CONFUSION RE NEW TYPES DEFINITION, WARNKE CLARIFIED THAT WE WERE NOT PROPOSING TO CHANGE THE DEFINITION WE HAD TABLED IN THE JDT AND THAT THE DEFINITION WAS INTENDED TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN PERMITTED MODIFICATIONS AND CHANGES SO GREAT AS TO MAKE A MISSILE A NEW TYPE, NOT TO LIMIT THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ONE EXEMPT NEW ICBM TYPE.
 - B. ON CRUISE MISSILE RANGE, GROMYKO REPEATED STANDARD SOVIET OBJECTIONS TO A PERCENTAGE ALLOWANCE.

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- C. MOST OF HIS RESPONSE CONCERNED BACKFIRE. GROMYKO DENIED THAT THERE HAD BEEN ANY INCONSISTENCIES IN SOVIET RANGE STATEMENTS AND REPEATED STANDARD LINES ABOUT OBJECTING TO INCLUDING BACKFIRE IN THE SALT AGREEMENT OR IN ANY OTHER BILATERAL DOCUMENT. HE ALSO REPEATED THAT BACKFIRE IS NOT A STRATEGIC SYSTEM

AND COULD NO MORE BE INCLUDED THAN COULD US FBS OR THIRD COUNTRY SYSTEMS. FINALLY, HE SAID THAT BACKFIRE IS A POLITICAL ISSUE ONLY WHICH THE US CREATED AND WHICH IT IS UP TO THE US TO SOLVE. WARNKE SAID WE COULD PROVIDE A PAPER THAT WOULD SPECIFY THE RANGE STATEMENT INCONSISTENCIES. WARNKE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BACKFIRE ISSUE, EMPHASIZING THAT BACKFIRE IS BOTH A STRATEGIC AND A POLITICAL PROBLEM.

3. GROMYKO SAID HE WOULD RESPOND TO AS MANY OTHER ISSUES AS POSSIBLE IN A MEETING AT 0930 8 SEPTEMBER, MENTIONING SPECIFICALLY DURATION OF PROTOCOL AND DATE FOR DISMANTLING. HE MADE NO REFERENCE TO ALCM NUMBERS LIMITS, CONVENTIONALLY ARMED CRUISE MISSILES, OVERALL NEW TYPES FRACTIONATION ISSUE OR DEPRESSED TRAJECTORIES.

4. GROMYKO WARNED THAT IF HE SAW PRESS STORIES THAT US HAD MADE PROPOSALS SO THAT IT WAS UP TO SOVIETS TO MAKE NEXT MOVE, SOVIETS WOULD REFUTE THE CLAIM, WHETHER OR NOT HE HAD GIVEN US ANSWERS ON ALL POINTS. WARNKE SAID WE WERE NOT INTERESTED IN A PRESS CAMPAIGN. TOON

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